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REPORT OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (IACC) ON UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE FOR AFRICA

Kinshasa (Zaire), 14-15 March 1988

A. ORGANIZATION

1. The second extra-ordinary meeting of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, was held on 13 and 14 March 1988 in Kinshasa (Zaire). The meeting was convened in conformity with the decision taken in Ouagadougou at the eleventh ordinary meeting of the Committee.

B. PARTICIPATION

2. Present at the meeting were representatives of the following United Nations specialized agencies and institutions, as well as African intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Civil Aviation Commission (ICAO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), International Maritime Organization (IMO), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU), Union of African Railways (UAR), Port-Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), Mano River Union (MRU), International Labour Organization (ILO).

3. Also participating at the meeting in observer status, were representatives of Burkina Faso, Guinea and Zaire.

C. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. In his opening statement, Citoyen MULAMBA MUSAMBAYI, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, first welcomed delegates and briefly recalled the decision taken by the Committee in Ougadougou to hold this extra-ordinary meeting in order to finalize the evaluation report on the Decade.

5. He underscored the fact that on a national level, transport modes represent a strategic sector for Zaire, on account of the vastness of its national territory (2345000 km^2) and that the Executive Council has always given support to this sector at subregional and regional levels and consequently gave its total support to the launching of the Decade in Kinshasa in 1977, participated in all meetings of the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, as well as supported various joint activities including the rehabilitation of the Bengwela Railway.

6. Citoyen MULAMBA observed that on the basis of the evaluation of this first Decade, appropriate recommendations should be made with regard to the continuation of the development of transport and communications in Africa, as well as with a view to safeguarding achievements made during this Decade.

7. He wished the meeting every success in its deliberations and formally declared open, the second extra-ordinary meeting of the Committee.

D. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme (Agenda item 2)

8. The meeting adopted the following agenda and work programme.

MONDAY 14 MARCH

10.00 - 12.00 Registration of participants at Palais du Peuple

15.00 - 15.30 Opening ceremony : Statement by the Minister of Transport and Communications

15.30 - 18.00 Presentation of the Evaluation Report on the Decade

- discussions

TUESDAY 15 MARCH

9.00 - 12.00 - Adoption of the Agenda

- discussions

12.00 - Lunch break

18.00 - 20.00 - discussions

- closure of the meeting

Consideration of the Global Evaluation Report of the UNTACDA

9. A representative of the secretariat presented the document: Global Evaluation Report of the UNTACDA (Doc. E/ECA/TCD/55) for consideration.

10. In summary, it was stated that ECA had revised the Global Report according to the suggestions made at Ouagadougou at the eleventh meeting of the Committee. Attempts had been made to incorporate all the major points made by the Committee into the current report. Specifically, the revised report presents the results of implementation and impact of the Decade in separate chapters, and the recommendations had been reformulated into five groups. One recommendation on other relevant considerations for the second Decade had been added.

11. The Secretariat further reported that all sectorial reports, except for the postal sub-sector, had been completed. The major impact of the Decade on the development of transports and communications at policy level, institutional development, co-operation, resource mobilization and sectoral development were highlighted.

12. In conclusion, the secretariat thanked the committee for its contribution to the Decade in general, and the evaluation exercise in particular.

13. The meeting acknolwedged that the report presented by the ECA, reflected the main observations made in Ouagadougou during the 11th IACC meeting. However, participants made some amendments, as follows:

(a) paragraph 130 should read "nearly US$13 billion" instead of more than 12 billions...",

(b) paragraph 164(iv) should read "Consequently, no regional master plan was developed except in the telecommunications sub-sector where the PANAFTEL project represents the regional master plan and in Civil Aviation which has developed a regional plan for air navigation".

14. The participants reaffirmed the need to have a second Decade, preceeded by a preparatory two-year period. In this regard, they propose to submit through the meeting of experts, to the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Declaration of a Second Transport and Communciations Decade in Africa.

The main objectives and aims of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa have been pursued and reasonably achieved up to a point over the past nine years. The major contribution of the Decade to African development has been the fact that the region has been equipped with a regional global strategy for the development of the transport and communications sectors, designed to stimulate and sustain socio-cultural and economic co-operation, integration and economic growth in Africa. In view of the long-term nature of these activities and the fact that a good foundation has been laid during the first Decade, it is appropriate that a Second Decade be proclaimed, during which the activities and momentum should be continued as follows:

(a) The principles and objectives of the global strategy be reaffirmed and strengthened, in order to provide an improved framework for the regional development and planning of the transport and communications sectors in Africa,

(b) The principle of the Second Decade be accepted by the ECA Conference of Ministers, as well as by the OAU Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government and that this Second Decade be proclaimed by the UN General Assembly,

(c) The effective period of the Second Decade be 1991 - 2000, which should be regarded as an intermediate phase in a long-term programme for the total achievement of the global objectives of facilitating physical integration of the continent.

Recommendation 2: Maintain the expertise and experience acquired during the first Decade by retaining and reappointing the statutory and executing agencies.

The first Decade has not only been an original but a unique experience of a long-term programme in the UN System. The lessons and experiences acquiried from it would be of invaluable significance for a Second Decade. During the current Decade, it has been possible to establish strategies, mechanisms and basic conditions which enabled the implementation of the programme and it is therefore necessary for these to be available for the proposed Second Decade.

In this regard, it is recommended that:

(a) The role and responsibilities of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning as well as its functions as the permanent policy making body for the implementation of the proposed Decade programme, be reconfirmed;

(b) ECA be reappointed as lead agency for the implementation of the Second Decade and to be responsible for the following:

(i) preparation of the Second Decade programme in close collaboration with all the relevant African regional/subregional intergovernmental organizations, agencies of the United Nations system, African and international institutions;

(ii) harmonization, co-ordination and monitoring of all activities to be carried out by itself and by all the other institutions, within the context of the Decade;

(iii) ensuring the coherence and harmonization of regional and subregional projects and components of national transport and communications plans and projects related to the global strategy and programme;

(iv) providing the secretariat services for the implementation of the programme.

(c) The Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee be reappointed, its composition expanded to included users and operators' representatives, and its role as the ultimate technical body of the programme, responsible to the Conference of Ministers, be strengthened.

Recommendation 3: Allow a two-year preparatory period between the end of the first and the launching of the Second Decade.

The preparation and implementation of the first Decade were adversely affected by the lack of experience and inadequate preparation of the programme. Taking into account the lessons from the experience, it seems absolutely imperative that adequate time is devoted to the careful preparation of the

Second Decade programme. In this regard, the States are urged to provide ECA with all relevant information. Furthermore, since the first Decade did involve and generated interest in various circles, which should be maintained and re-emphaized, the preparatory period would enable dissemination of the results of the implementation of the first Decade, and discussions which would enable the smooth launching of the second Decade.

It is therefore recommended that the two-year preparatory period (1989-1990) should be designated and have as its objectives:

(i) preparation of a long-term transport and communications development plan for Africa, covering the period 1991 to 2010;

(ii) preparation of a detailed programme of activities of the Second Decade (1991-2000);

(iii) establishment of mechanisms for executing the programme of the Second Decade.

Recommendation 4: Preparation of the programme for the Second Decade.

ECA in close collaboration with other relevant UN agencies and African Inter-Governmental Organizations, should undertake the following activities during the two-year preparatory period:

4.1 (a) Compilation of information required for:

(i) making a final assessment of the programme of the first Decade;

(ii) establishing a special priority programme consisting of still relevant regional, subregional and/or national projects with regional/subregional importance which did not receive full financing and/or were not implemented during the first Decade.

(b) Updating and harmonizing priority projects in each transport and communications subsector, determined to be of importance in the Second Decade programme, with special emphasis on regional, subregional and national projects with subregional significances as contained in:

(i) national transport and communications plans;

(ii) transport and communications plans of regional/subregional IGOs;

(iii) transport and communications plans of specialized African and international organizations.

4.2 Hold consultations with other Agencies/organizations currently executing Decade programme so as to exchange views and experience which can be useful for the preparation and implementation of the Second Decade.

4.3. ECA in collaboration with member agencies of the IACC, should accelerate the preparation of regional/subregional policies, development programmes and master plans for each transport mode and communications sub-sector, as well as integrated global master plans of the transport and communications sectors, taking into account the following:

(a) Plans and programmes should be based on the development of regional corridors that support or are designed to support the development objectives of the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action;

(b) Clearly established transport and communications priorities as contained in regional/subregional plans and in the programmes of specialized member agencies of the IACC, or national plans; these will include short-term, medium-term and long-term programmes;

(c) The need for a coherent minimum programme which must be implemented within the specified period;

(d) A detailed and appropriate mechanism for the implementation of the regional/subregional components of the programme, including availability and sources of resources;

(e) Appropriate identifiers and indicators which would enable assessment of the achievement of the programme;

(f) Relevant recommendations made, but not applied during the first Decade, whose implementation can contribute positively to the preparation and execution of the Second Decade.

Recommendation 5: Establishment of new and strengthening of existing mechanisms for implementation of the programme.

(a) Creation of a Resource Mobilization Committee comprising of but not limited to: ADB, OAU, UNDP, BADEA, World Bank, EEC, ACP as members and ECA providing secretariat services. The committee should strengthen co-operation among its members and ensure the collaboration and participation of other financial institutions in the financing of such studies and projects that fall within the global strategy;

(b) In collaboration with governments and member institutions of the IACC, establish national co-ordinating committee responsible for:

(i) monitoring in each country the implementation of projects, policies, programmes, modal and sub-sectoral master plans that fall within the global strategy;

(ii) co-ordinating activities and information with the Decade secretariat.

(c) Create new associations/organizations which should group together professionals and/or operators in sub-sectors where no such bodies already exist;

(d) The Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee should meet at least twice a year during the preparatory period in order to:

(i) consider proposals submitted by the Decade Secretariat;

(ii) advise the secretariat on the formulation of recommendations to be submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

(e) The Conference of Ministers should meet at least once a year during the 1989-1990 period, in order to consider and approve the recommendations for the implementation of the global strategy during the second Decade.

Recommendation 6: Other relevant considerations.

Financing the Second Decade - responsibility of African States.

(a) Since African States are primarily responsible for, and are the principal beneficiaries from the programme, they should devote adequate and more (financial) resources to the implementation of the Second Decade, than they did during the first Decade and to strictly adhere to the priorities laid down for the execution of projects.

(b) Detailed and specific recommendations relating to each transport mode and communications subsector, contained in the sectoral reports should be carefully considered and incorporated into the Second Decade programme, so as to enable it more appropriately address the problems prevailing in transport and communications development in Africa.

Adoption of Report and Closure of the Meeting

15. The draft report prepared by the ECA Secretariat was adopted without amendment.

16. Addressing the meeting during the closing session, the Chief of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division of the ECA, who also chaired the extraordinary meeting of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee, congratulated members for the high level of deliberations concluded in record time. He observed that throughout the Decade, the Committee continuously made valuable contributions to its success by meeting regularly, as well as by submitting concrete recommendations and proposals to the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning. He expressed the desire to see the Committee continue its functions within the context proposed by the evaluation report and hoped the members would participate actively in the meeting of experts and the ministerial meeting, both of which would be taking place in Kinshasa within the next few days.

17. In conclusion, he formally declared closed the extra-ordinary meeting of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.